

SPOTLIGHT

NEWS
for the
PEOPLE of
CHULA
VISTA



Traffic Relief

HAVE YOU NOTICED A DIFFERENCE? The road crews and heavy equipment that were part of the landscape for almost two years along Olympic Parkway and the I-805 are gone! And traffic is moving smoothly now that new lanes have been added and freeway ramps have been widened.

One of the City's most important construction projects—the Olympic Parkway/I-805 Interchange—was completed last month.

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Fire Safety Classroom on Wheels

CHULA VISTA FIREFIGHTERS

are taking their fire safety message on the road. Soon, they'll be bringing a new interactive tool—a fire safety house on wheels—to an elementary school near you.

Inside a large mobile trailer with stadium seating, are reproductions of two rooms in which most residential fires start—a bedroom and kitchen. The Chula Vista Fire Department will drive home its safety message using fire-breathing pots, flaming trashcans, heated door handles and blazing fireplaces—all simulated, of course.

"The majority of fires that kill or injure children are residential fires," according to Chula Vista Fire Chief Doug Perry. "We're bringing this traveling classroom to elementary school students throughout the city. We know young children are very curious, and we want them to be as safe and informed as possible."

Across the country, the majority of fire-related deaths (70%) are caused by smoke inhalation. Last year, more than 92,000 children under the age of 15 were treated at hospital emergency rooms for burn-related injuries.

In the kitchen of this mobile interactive training center, children



PHOTO BY MIKE ARMBRUST

will learn about stove safety, how to handle appliances and a fire extinguisher, and the best way to douse kitchen fires. Moving onto the bedroom, they'll get lessons on fireplace safety and smoke detectors, and learn how to escape from a burning house.

The fire safety house was funded by a grant from the Mary Birch Foundation. 🐼

Nature Center Renovations Underway

ALTHOUGH THE INTERIOR OF

the Chula Vista Nature Center looks like a construction zone, most exhibits remain open to visitors and school groups. Pardon our dust as we create the new Wergeland Family Discovery Center, an experience you won't want to miss.

This major, five-month exhibit and facilities remodel is replacing the outdated interior displays with three-dimensional exhibits that will allow visitors to encounter nature in a series of habitat zones: Bay, Marsh and Upland. In addition, a state-of-the-art deep-water aquarium will provide a habitat for



endangered Green Sea Turtles.

Popular exhibits like the David A. Wergeland Shark & Ray Experience, the shorebird exhibit, and Eagle Mesa are not involved in the remodel.

During our transition, plan to bring your family out and enjoy the grounds and beautiful weather at a reduced admission price. You'll also be able to see the step-by-step construction of San Diego Bay's only native turtle exhibit: Turtle Lagoon.

This is, by far, the largest project the Chula Vista Nature Center has ever undertaken, with the costs approaching an amazing \$3 million. Generous support—from government agencies, local businesses and individuals—is making this project possible. 🐼

Around Town...

Harvest Ridge Receives National Award

A Chula Vista development for seniors won top honors at the annual conference of the National Association of Home Builders in Florida. Harvest Ridge in Otay Ranch was presented with the Gold Achievement Award, Mixed Use-Overall Project. The 91-unit affordable housing development is home to seniors in Heritage Town Center.

Apartments have been built above bustling retail stores and across the street from a park and a transit stop. According to the judges, "Architectural blending of retail and residential units puts residents right where the action is. The project achieves amazing density without becoming oppressive. Well-thought-out connections enjoy excellent amenities."

Wanted: City Volunteers

Help your community by becoming a volunteer. Choose the opportunity that best fits your needs.

Drivers: Licensed drivers are needed to deliver informational packets on



Fridays, twice a month, to the homes of Planning Commission and Design Review Committee members. Mileage reimbursement will be provided. Contact Bob McSeveney at (619) 585-5712 for more information.

Senior Volunteer Patrol: Interested volunteers 50 years or older are being recruited as the official eyes and ears of the Chula Vista Police Department. Training and uniforms are provided for those who qualify. Join your neighbors and friends as they make a difference in their community. Request an application by calling (619) 476-2417.

Nature Center Docents: Free docent training will be provided by the Chula Vista Nature Center March 4 through April 29. Docents are volunteer interpretive guides that assist staff with school visits, daily Discovery Center tours and weekend bird walks. For details, call Barbara Moore at (619) 409-5903.

Tutors: The Chula Vista Public Library is looking for adults to assist junior and senior high school students with homework assignments and exam preparation. Basic knowledge of math and English is required. Tutoring sessions are offered Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6-8 p.m. at two library locations. To sign up, call the Library Volunteer Coordinator at (619) 691-5000.

A Howling Success

The Chula Vista Animal Care Facility's 2005 *Home 4 the Holidays* campaign set a new record for animal adoptions. From November through January, 395 pets found new homes—a 45% increase over last year's effort. During the eight-week campaign, local families adopted 182 dogs, 180 cats and 33 small companion animals. *Home 4 the Holidays* is an annual event aimed at increasing adoptions during a time of year when shelters are often overcrowded with orphaned animals.

"This year's campaign was better than ever," said Dr. Dorothy York, the center's director. "Not only did more pets find quality homes compared to last year, but we increased our exposure to the public and the media as well."

York praised the staff and volunteers who supported the event, and thanked residents who welcomed these furry friends into their homes.



Get e-Brief

While you're on the City's Website, remember to sign up for the monthly electronic newsletter, e-Brief. Subscribers will get the latest news from City Hall including important announcements and dates of upcoming events. Look for the e-Brief logo on the Home page for directions about how to subscribe—in English or Spanish.



Schedule a Speaker

For an in-depth discussion about the City's future plans, services and programs, schedule a speaker. Elected officials and key City staff members are available to meet with homeowners associations, service clubs, business organizations, PTAs and other community groups to talk about the issues that are making news in our neighborhoods. Learn about the goals and priorities of your City council members and how your concerns can be heard and addressed. To schedule a speaker, contact the Office of Communications at (619) 691-5296. 🐾

Design District Debuts

SHOPPING FOR HOME close to home is getting easier now that the dramatic 36-acre EastLake Design District is open for business. The new home decorating and design center is located just north of Otay Lakes Road, at the intersection of Fenton Street and Showroom Place.

Anchor stores Ashley Furniture, Bassett Furniture Direct and Lane Home Furnishings provide shoppers with 100,000 square feet of furniture, lighting and accessories. All three stores offer interior design services along with an extensive collection of home decorating opportunities.

This spring, look for additional openings including home grown favorite Foliage Furniture, Italian-designed goods from Casa Divani, along with Carolina Place Rug Gallery, the Curtain Collection,



Consignment Classics Home Furnishings, the Home Space Design Center, Hot Springs Spa, West Coast Flooring, PatioSource, Custom Doors and Moldings, IntelliBed, the Dunn-Edwards paint store and a full-service food court. 🌊

Streaming Video is Here

WATCH YOUR CITY LEADERS in action by viewing City Council meetings live on the Internet via your computer. From wherever you are, simply log onto the City's Web site at www.chula-vistaca.gov to view live and archived council meetings.

Streaming video made its debut on the City's Web site December 16. It's an easy and convenient way for people to get involved in local government and stay connected with their decision-makers.

Archived meetings can be viewed by agenda item; so there's no need to watch any meeting in its entirety. Below the screen is a drop down menu that lists all agenda items. Just click on the area of interest, and the video will fast forward to that portion of the

meeting. Links to the video are available in the minutes of each meeting, which are posted on the same page.

All regular council meetings and certain special meetings will be carried live and archived on the City's Internet site. In addition to streaming video, council meetings will continue to be aired on local television—Cox Cable Channel 24 and Chula Vista Cable Channel 68. 🌊



Help for Alzheimer's Patients



CHULA VISTA ASSIST is a new program launched by the Chula Vista Police Department to help elderly residents who may be suffering from dementia, Alzheimer's or other memory disorders. The program is appropriately named because it assists families in locating a loved one who is lost or missing.

Participants are registered with the police department and given

an I.D. bracelet to wear at all times in case they disappear from home. When they're found, police can identify them using the special number on the bracelet.

Chula Vista Assist creates a network of protection by registering the elderly with local law enforcement and social service agencies. According to the Alzheimer's Association, four million people in this country are diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease—and the number is expected to climb to 21 million by 2025. For more information, please call (619) 476-2588. 🌊

Swing into Spring

Day of the Child Community Fair Free family festival featuring information on children's services and resources. Health and literacy booths, circus performers, live music, face painting, food and prizes. Join the fun on April 22 in Memorial Park at 373 Park Way from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sponsored by the Chula Vista Community Collaborative and Chula Vista Child Care Commission. For more information, please call (619) 427-0376.

Cycle EastLake 2006 Get ready to ride on May 7!



Recreational bike tours are 5, 12, 25 and 50-mile routes that begin and end at EastLake Middle School located at 900 Duncan Ranch Road. Post-ride activities include a Fat Tire Festival celebrating the sport of mountain biking, a health fair, treats from local restaurants, a tricycle parade and bike rodeo for kids and more! To register or for more information, log on to www.eastlakefoundation.org.*

Festival Cinco de Mayo Don't miss the largest street fair in South County on April 30! Live entertainment on two stages,

200 craft and food booths, carnival rides, children's activities, and dancing from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in downtown Chula Vista, Third Avenue from E to G Streets. For more details, contact the Downtown Business Association, (619) 422-1982.

California Ballet presents the Legend of Josefa under the stars in Bayside Park. The story of native San Diegan Josefa Carrillo who elopes with a dashing sea captain is one of the best known true stories of early California history. Experience the romance as the California Ballet transports you into the past on May 5 and 6. The show begins at 8 p.m. and ticket prices range from \$22 - \$78. For more information, please call (858) 560-6741 or log on to www.californiaballet.org.*

Farmers' Market Start the spring season off right and

get those fruits and vegetables into your diet! Visit certified farmers' markets to purchase fresh produce, flowers and specialty foods directly from the farmers in two Chula Vista locations:

Downtown Chula Vista, Third Ave. and Center. Every Thursday from 3 – 6 p.m.

EastLake Farmers Market, 1360 EastLake Parkway. Every Friday from 3 – 7 p.m. 🌻



* a Healthy Lifestyles event



Traffic Relief

continued from front page

Although the \$25 million construction project sometimes resulted in delays and was often inconvenient for motorists, residents are raving about the improvements. Traveling in and out of the City of Chula Vista is easier and safer now that this previously congested interchange has been re-engineered to accommodate the heavy flow of traffic.

Motorists driving along Olympic Parkway and I-805 will notice the following improvements:

- Widened Olympic Parkway and Orange Avenue between Oleander and Melrose to six lanes
- An expanded freeway overpass along Olympic Parkway that accommodates more lanes
- Extra lanes added to all four Olympic Parkway freeway ramps
- Auxiliary lanes constructed along I-805 between Olympic Parkway and Main Street to ease merging

Improvements at the Main Street interchange should help boost economic development along the Main Street corridor. New

development and businesses translate into job opportunities and an expanding tax base.

The project is the result of a unique partnership forged between the City and Caltrans—a working relationship that has become a model for local governments throughout California. This unusual collaborative effort that made use of the professional talent already on board in both organizations, saved taxpayers money. Although the City took the lead on the project, both agencies worked together to administer the construction contract, perform inspections and solve problems, regardless of whose right-of-way was involved.

Three other high profile road projects in Chula Vista, constructed using the same City/Caltrans team, include: the widening of Telegraph Canyon Road between I-805 and Crest Drive; the expansion of East H Street at I-805; and construction of the Poggi Canyon sewer tunnel.

Funding sources for the project include a \$5 million federal grant obtained by Congressman Bob Filner and \$5 million in TransNet monies provided by SANDAG (San Diego Association of Governments). 🌻

Musicians, Artists Top Taste of the Arts Festival

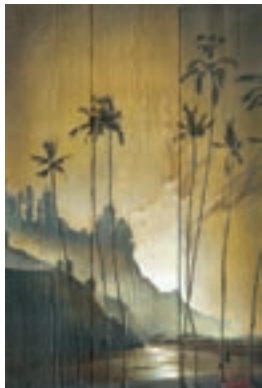
CHULA VISTA'S TASTE OF THE ARTS festival offers a fantastic lineup of artists, live music and dance entertainment Sunday, May 21, in beautiful Bayside Park! More than 30 featured artists will display and sell everything from pottery and paintings to baskets and bronzes.

A Pops concert by the San Diego Chamber Orchestra titled "Americana" headlines the special event. Add the smooth jazz sound of Fattburger and the passion of Tango Alma to round out the musical highlights of the day's festivities.

Many of the artists who have been invited to participate in Taste of the Arts will demonstrate how individual works of art

are created. In addition, dozens of artist vendors from throughout Southern California will have one-of-a-kind art pieces for sale including jewelry, blown glass, tiles, Indian baskets, paintings, photography and sculptures.

Jugglers, giant puzzles, clay creations and painting are some of the fun activities for kids. Their favorites—Icarus Puppet Theater, Fern Street Circus, San Diego Museum of Art, San Diego Children's Museum and the Rad Hatter—are back by popular demand.



Shadows, by Pete Tillack

Pete Tillack will return as one of the festival's popular featured artists. The paintings of the Australian-born Tillack reflect his love of surfing and his experiences traveling around the world. From serene seascapes to brightly colored bulls, Tillack uses shadows and highlights to draw the viewer into each piece.

Featured artist Del Herbert, who lives in Chula Vista, first carved a wooden

duck decoy to decorate his mantle. Little did he know then that he would become hooked on this art form and carve hundreds of striking birds, which have won awards in shows and galleries across the United States.

Cherrie La Porte's distinctive art glass collection and bronze sculptures stimulate the imagination. Her artwork blends glass and metal into blown glass, jewelry, sculptures and garden art.

In the coming months, check our Web site at www.chulavistaca.gov for the entertainment schedule and list of participating artists. The Chula Vista Office of Arts and Culture presents the festival and major sponsors include the City of Chula Vista and the Port of San Diego. 🌊



Pete Tillack

PHOTO ©2003 JANIS FOLEY

CHULA VISTA SPOTLIGHT



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The Chula Vista Spotlight newsletter is published five times per year and is distributed as a public service to residents and businesses by the City of Chula Vista. Copies are also available at various locations around the city. Send comments or inquiries to the Office of Communications, City of Chula Vista, 276 Fourth Avenue, Chula Vista, CA 91910. The city's Web page address is www.chulavistaca.gov